

SEA GHOSTS

Sea Ghosts have four songs on Soundcloud and 104 followers at the time of writing. One of these tracks is, perplexingly, a collaboration with iLoveMakonnen called "Running Away". It starts with a simple beat, a wobbling watery chord sequence and Makonnen's signature off-kilter, pitchy vocals. It is a strange song, lacking the immediacy and rhythm of iLoveMakonnen and Sea Ghosts other work so far. Bizarre and chaotic though it may be, it is still a charming song if not simply for its amateur aesthetic and melodies.

Despite this, the star of their work so far is not "Running Away" but "Spokes" their next chronological release. It is a beautiful cacophony of no-fi, overdriven punk garage rock with a suspicious element of synth pop in there too. "You don't have the words to say" declares the accelerated chorus before the middle eight breaks up the charge with a hypnotic wind instrument sounding synth. Unfortunately the song is slightly deflated by ambiguous, tentative lyrics but the song and its production are so childlike and imaginative that it's easy to enjoy the callow musings for what they are, very enjoyable.

Appleby...

The world of R&B in 2014 is a rapidly morphing beast and incredibly rewarding genre for those with the time to hunt for the gems and for those artists willing to take the biggest risks. Unfortunately a large majority of artists prefer to play it safe than work outside the confines of the genre and tropes associated with it. Appleby is not one of those artists.

Although only one of Appleby's four tracks available on soundcloud break the three minute mark, what is there is quite simply astonishingly brilliant. The best there is the dreamy, murky and evocative "Spit On Me". It opens with Appleby confessing, "I hate that angry boy inside of me/ He's so pissed off that I can't find no peace/It's not his fault that he's a piece of shit/ It's all the people in his life that treat him like a dick". It's facetious, hugely entertaining and delivered in a tone one millimetre away from a whisper. His personality is instantly endearing, his voice is soulful and all this paired with the occasionally avant-garde production he chooses to sing over makes for a catchy, thought provoking and ultimately impressive start to his musical endeavours.

Harry Edwards

Harry Edwards is a peculiar case-study. Here is a singer-songwriter that makes experimental electronic music that is blissful, electric and at times, truly awe-inspiring. He has about 3 songs short of an LP on his SoundCloud right now and every single one is spectacular in their own way. A key issue for me is that Harry's work so far seems to emulate rather than innovate on the musical ideas (emphasis on space, percussion and vocal manipulation) of more established and lauded artists of the R&B sub-genre the last five years (James Blake, How to Dress Well, The Weeknd). It's undeniable Harry Edwards has serious productions

chops and the vocal finesse to match, with songs like "I hope you hear" - a stark and life-affirming two minute ballad. For these reasons Harry Edwards is a exceedingly exciting artist and if he manages to find his own path and inspirations i'm certain he will be an unstoppable force. His earliest tracks are the best ones, "The only thing you see" a reverb drenched compound of grainy highly compressed source material side-chained by a single, pounding bass drum. It's spine tingling, uncompromising and so delightfully satisfying that its easy to forget Harry Edwards is only just getting started.